

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 055125

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, EAID, RO

SUBJECT: KENNEDY STATEMENT ON AID TO ROMANIA

REF: EMBASSY/DEPT TELCON MARCH 11

1. TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE FROM SENATOR KENNEDY'S OFFICE
INDICATING HIS WILLINGNESS TO SPONSOR SPECIAL LEGISLATION
FOR ASSISTANCE TO ROMANIA FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT. SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY, CHAIRMAN OF
THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, TODAY URGED THE ADMINISTRA-
TION "TO SPARE NO EFFORT IN HELPING TO MEET THE HUMANI-
TARIAN NEEDS OF THE RUMANIAN PEOPLE IN THE WAKE OF FRIDAY'S
MASSIVE EARTHQUAKE." SENATOR KENNEDY SAID HE WOULD
INTRODUCE SPECIAL LEGISLATION, IF NEEDED, TO PROVIDE REHA-
BILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE AS NEEDS ARE
IDENTIFIED.

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SENATOR KENNEDY WAS INFORMED THIS MORNING BY THE DISASTER
RELIEF OFFICE IN THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
THAT THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN BUCHAREST HAD MET WITH RUMANIAN
OFFICIALS AND THAT \$85,000 IN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPLIES
WERE AIR-LIFTED THIS MORNING TO THE DISASTER AREA.

SENATOR KENNEDY MADE HIS STATEMENT IN REMARKS TO THE

SENATE, THE TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS: "THE FULL SCOPE OF THE DISASTER WHICH STRUCK RUMANIA DURING THE EARLY EVENING HOURS LAST FRIDAY IS ONLY NOW BECOMING CLEAR. A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE, REGISTERING 7.5 ON THE RICHTER SCALE, HIT JUST 65 MILES FROM THE HEAVILY POPULATED AREA OF BUCHAREST, LEAVING A MASSIVE PATH OF DESTRUCTION AND COLLAPSED BUILDINGS IN ITS WAKE--KILLING THOUSANDS AND LEAVING THOUSANDS MORE INJURED AND HOMELESS.

"ALTHOUGH REPORTS ARE STILL PRELIMINARY AND SCATTERED, THE RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT, DISASTER RELIEF TEAMS, AND JOURNALISTIC ACCOUNTS, ALL TELL OF A TRAGIC TOLL IN HUMAN LIFE AND PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED WILL NOT BE FULLY KNOWN UNTIL THE DEBRIS IS CLEARED, BUT UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATES PLACE THE TOLL WELL ABOVE 2,000. OVER 5,000 ARE KNOWN INJURED, WITH MANY STILL MAKING THEIR WAY TO HOSPITALS AND INFIRMARIES.

"FOR THOSE STILL ALIVE, THOUSANDS HAVE TAKEN SHELTER WITH FRIENDS OR RELATIVES. AND SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE STRUCK THE URBAN AREA OF BUCHAREST, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF DAMAGE HAS BEEN REPORTED TO HOUSING AND APARTMENT COMPLEXES, AS WELL AS TO COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES.

"AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, I WANT TO EXPRESS MY DEEP SYMPATHY AND CONCERN TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF RUMANIA. I AM CONFIDENT OUR GOVERNMENT, IN CONCERT WITH OTHERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL RESPOND GENEROUSLY TO THE RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE.

"I COMMEND THE DISASTER RELIEF OFFICE FOR ALREADY DISPATCHING \$85,000 IN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AND FOR PREPARING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE AS THE NEED ARISES. HOPEFULLY, THE U.N. DISASTER RELIEF OFFICE WILL LEND ITS SUPPORT TO THE RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S APPEALS FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

"AS LONGER-TERM REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION NEEDS ARE IDENTIFIED, I STAND READY, WITH OTHERS IN CONGRESS, TO INTRODUCE NECESSARY LEGISLATION TO OFFER AMERICA'S HELPING HAND TO THE PEOPLE OF RUMANIA." END TEXT.

3. RELEASE IS DATED MARCH 7.
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Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IMSILINS:SAM
Enclosure: n/a
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